

RIPM

Regional Integrated Pest Management Competitive Grants Program Western Region

FY 2009 Request for Applications

APPLICATION DEADLINE: November 17, 2008



U.S. Department of Agriculture



Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

**COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE;
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**REGIONAL INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT COMPETITIVE GRANTS
PROGRAM WESTERN REGION**

INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE: Projects awarded under Section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act of May 8, 1914, ch. 79, 38 Stat. 372, 7 U.S.C. 341 *et seq.* can be found in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under 10.500. Projects awarded under Section 2(c)(1)(B) of the Act of August 4, 1965, Public Law No. 89-106, as amended (7 U.S.C. 450i (c)(1)(B)) can be found in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under 10.200.

DATES: Applications must be received by close of business (COB) on **November 17, 2008** (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time). Applications received after this deadline will normally not be considered for funding. Comments regarding this request for applications (RFA) are requested within six months from the issuance of this notice. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

STAKEHOLDER INPUT: The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) is requesting comments regarding this RFA from any interested party. These comments will be considered in the development of the next RFA for the program, if applicable, and will be used to meet the requirements of section 103(c)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7613(c)(2)). This section requires the Secretary to solicit and consider input on a current RFA from persons who conduct or use agricultural research, education and extension for use in formulating future RFAs for competitive programs. Written stakeholder comments on this RFA should be submitted in accordance with the deadline set forth in the DATES portion of this Notice.

Written stakeholder comments should be submitted by mail to: Policy & Oversight Branch; Office of Extramural Programs; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; USDA; STOP 2299; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, DC 20250-2299; or via e-mail to: RFP-OEP@csrees.usda.gov. (This e-mail address is intended only for receiving comments regarding this RFA and not requesting information or forms.) In your comments, please state that you are responding to the Regional Integrated Pest Management Competitive Grants Program Western Region RFA.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: CSREES anticipates the availability of grant funds and requests applications for the Regional Integrated Pest Management Competitive Grants Program Western Region (W – RIPM) for fiscal year (FY) 2009 to help achieve National IPM goals by increasing the supply and dissemination of IPM knowledge and by enhancing collaboration among stakeholders. The amount available for support of this program in FY 2009 is approximately \$650,000.

This notice identifies the objectives for W-RIPM projects, the eligibility criteria for projects and applicants, and the application forms and associated instructions needed to apply for a W-RIPM

grant. CSREES additionally requests stakeholder input from any interested party for use in the development of the next RFA for this program.

Table of Contents

PART I—FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION	5
A. Legislative Authority and Background.....	5
B. Purpose and Priorities	5
C. Program Area Description	8
PART II—AWARD INFORMATION.....	11
A. Available Funding	11
B. Types of Applications	11
PART III—ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION.....	12
A. Eligible Applicants	12
B. Cost Sharing or Matching	12
PART IV—APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION	13
A. Electronic Application Package.....	13
B. Content and Form of Application Submission.....	14
C. Submission Dates and Times	17
D. Funding Restrictions	18
E. Other Submission Requirements.....	18
PART V—APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS	18
A. General.....	18
B. Evaluation Criteria.....	20
C. Conflicts of Interest and Confidentiality	22
D. Organizational Management Information	22
PART VI—AWARD ADMINISTRATION	23
A. General.....	23
B. Award Notice	23
C. Administrative and National Policy Requirements	24
D. Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements	25
PART VII—AGENCY CONTACT	26
PART VIII—OTHER INFORMATION	27
A. Access to Review Information.....	27
B. Use of Funds; Changes	27
C. Confidential Aspects of Applications and Awards.....	28
D. Regulatory Information	28
E. Definitions.....	28
CHECKLIST	33

PART I—FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Legislative Authority and Background

Authority for the funding of Research projects is contained in Section 2(c)(1)(B) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act of August 4, 1965, Public Law No. 89-106, as amended (7 U.S.C. 450i (c)(1)(B)). Authority for the funding of Extension projects is contained in Section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act of May 8, 1914, ch. 79, 38 Stat. 372, 7 U.S.C. 341 *et seq.* For Joint Research-Extension applications (see Part II, C., 3), separate awards will be executed for P.L. 89-106 and Smith-Lever funds.

Please note: Section 7403 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-246) amended section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act to require funds to be awarded competitively. In addition, this amendment made the 1890 land-grant institutions eligible to participate in Smith-Lever section 3(d) programs at any appropriated level. Section 7417 of FCEA amended section 208 of the District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act (P.L. No. 93-471; 88 Stat. 1428) to provide eligibility to the University of the District of Columbia for programs authorized and appropriated under Smith-Lever section 3(d). These new provisions will be implemented in FY 2009.

B. Purpose and Priorities

The purpose of the RIPM program is to provide knowledge and information needed for the implementation of IPM methods that:

- improve the economic benefits related to the adoption of IPM practices;
- reduce potential human health risks from pests and the use of pest management practices;
- and
- reduce unreasonable adverse environmental effects from pests and the use of pest management practices.

The RIPM program fulfills this purpose by increasing the supply of and dissemination of IPM knowledge and by enhancing collaboration among stakeholders.

The Western Region is characterized by a diversity of cropping systems and large urban centers in close proximity to vulnerable ecosystems and natural resources. Public concerns about water use and quality, worker safety, and public health as it relates to pesticide use provide impetus to develop and implement regional IPM strategies.

The goals of the Regional IPM Competitive Grants Program – Western Region (W-RIPM) support the National IPM Roadmap (<http://www.ipmcenters.org/IPMRoadMap.pdf>) including development of long-term sustainable, profitable, and environmentally sound pest management systems for agriculture; promotion of reduced risk pest management practices for either agricultural or non agricultural situations (urban and natural systems); and protection and

conservation of ecosystem quality and diversity. The W-RIPM program will support and promote projects that significantly enhance and protect environmental quality, reduce the risk of health problems and other problems associated with pest management, and/or promote biological diversity in pest management systems and the integration of multiple pest management tactics.

In FY 2009, W-RIPM will support three types of projects: Research, Extension, and Joint Research-Extension (see Part I, C., Program Area Description, for more information). Priority areas have been identified for W-RIPM research projects and extension projects through stakeholders input to the Western IPM Center Steering Committee. Applications must involve one of the priorities or a combination of them, as appropriate. All of the priorities have equal importance.

1. Stakeholder Involvement

The Western Region is committed to addressing the pest management needs expressed by diverse stakeholders. Applications must include explicit citations or other documentation that stakeholder-identified needs are being addressed by the proposed project. Sources of stakeholder-identified needs include, but are not limited to:

- a. Needs identified in Pest Management Strategic Plans that can be accessed at <http://www.ipmcenter.org/pmsp/index.cfm>;
- b. Recommendations or reports from program advisory committees;
- c. Recommendations from stakeholder groups; and
- d. Other documented needs assessment evaluations.

Explicitly citing such sources demonstrates both that a project is important, and that the Project Directors (PDs) are engaged with the community.

2. Non-Pesticidal Tactics

The W-RIPM program encourages projects that develop, promote or implement non-pesticidal tactics.

3. Multi-State/Territory Involvement

A goal of the W-RIPM program is to encourage collaborations among states/territories for purposes of efficiency, economy, and synergy. To fulfill this goal, applications must project benefits to more than one state/territory. Projects involving multi-state/territory collaboration are preferred, but those undertaken by PDs in a single state/territory that will benefit other states in the region are also encouraged (see Part III, A., Eligible Applicants). Applicants must address multi-state/territory relevancy in their proposals.

Multi-State/Territory proposals must describe the role of each collaborating partner in sufficient detail so as to convince reviewers that the multi-state collaboration is meaningful.

4. Multi-Disciplinary, Systems-Oriented Projects

The W-RIPM program will support projects that promote cooperative efforts across appropriate disciplines, with linkages between research and extension efforts and components of existing or emerging pest management systems. The proposal should describe the role of each member of the multi-disciplinary team and their responsibilities to the project.

5. W-RIPM Competitive Grants Program Goals

Overall goal: (All projects must address this goal.)

Environmental stewardship and risk management: W-RIPM program will support and promote projects that significantly enhance and protect environmental quality, reduce the risk of health problems and other problems associated with pest management, and/or promote biological diversity in pest management systems and the integration of multiple pest management tactics.

For details about previously funded projects, please see the [CSREES Integrated Pest Management](#) webpage for more information.

In FY 2009, the Regional Integrated Pest Management Competitive Grants Program –Western Region (W-RIPM) is soliciting proposals that address the following Research and Extension objectives

Research Project Priority Areas: (Projects must address one or more of these priorities.)

- (a) Documenting (measuring) the impacts of IPM adoption;
- (b) Developing an effective tactic for a plant or animal production management system for a pest problem that currently limits production efficiency and is recognized by the user community as a key priority;
- (c) Addressing the landscape level or ecosystem (crops, natural systems, urban) and addressing multiple cycles of pests over seasons, and/or multiple species and complexes. The interactions of the entire community should be considered;
- (d) Promoting biological diversity in pest management systems and the integration of multiple pest management tactics;
- (e) Identifying the constraints to greater adoption of IPM strategies and developing approaches to overcome these constraints;
- (f) Promoting an interdisciplinary, IPM systems approach; and
- (g) Developing effective pest management tactics for invasive pests (arthropods, nematodes, vertebrates, diseases, or weeds) in cropping systems, natural and urban areas.

Extension Projects Priority Areas: (Projects must address one or more of these priorities.)

- (a) Providing IPM training and education to individuals involved with the production, processing, storage, transporting, and marketing of food and agricultural commodities;
- (b) Developing educational materials and information delivery systems that provide IPM personnel in the public and private sectors with timely, state-of-the-art information about effective IPM strategies;
- (c) Providing outreach on endangered species protection related to IPM; and
- (d) Urban and natural systems IPM, including IPM as related to human health issues.

C. Program Area Description

For W-RIPM application purposes, the program code name is “**Western RIPM**” and the program code is “**QQ.W**”.

Three types of project proposals can be submitted to the W-RIPM program in FY 2009: Research, Extension, or Joint Research-Extension . Applicants must indicate the type of project they are proposing on the Relevance Statement and on the Project Summary.

1. Research Projects

This funding category develops the research base needed for the construction of comprehensive pest management systems that have a strong likelihood of contributing to on-going IPM implementation efforts. Research may be proposed to develop individual tactics needed for pest management systems (e.g., biocontrol, cultural control, host resistance, particularly novel uses of chemicals, monitoring methods or decision support) or to increase the understanding of how interactions among tactics alter the effectiveness of pest management within agricultural, recreational, suburban, and urban ecosystems. The experimental approach should emphasize field-scale experiments over multiple seasons and/or locations, where appropriate. Practices should be designed to reduce initial pest populations, lower the carrying capacity of the ecosystem for pests, increase tolerance of hosts to pest injury, and/or provide tools for making management decisions such as monitoring methods and action thresholds. Long-term fundamental research is not appropriate for funding in this category. Novel, cutting-edge methods, for which there exist data to support likelihood of successful pest management and adoption, are encouraged. Research involving chemical pesticides should be designed to reduce the amount applied, frequency of applications and increase the selectivity of a pesticide. The project should be designed to minimize adverse impacts on beneficial organisms and to limit buildup of pest populations that are resistant to pesticides. Applications should clearly demonstrate how the tactic or IPM system, once developed, can be incorporated into an existing production or management system. Projects funded in this category should demonstrate economic, social, and environmental benefits of IPM strategies, and identify constraints to greater adoption of IPM systems by users.

Research applications from single or multiple institutions in only one state/territory in the Western Region may be submitted with a maximum total project budget of \$100,000; applications from more than one state/territory in the Western Region may be submitted with a maximum total project budget of \$180,000; and applications from more than one Western Region state/territory that are involved with an institution outside the Western Region may be submitted with a maximum total project budget of \$180,000. Research applications may be submitted for project periods of up to 3 years. **Please note that one- or two-year Research projects may be eligible for no-cost extensions after years one and two, but that no carryover or extension is permitted for these projects beyond three years. Any unexpended funds are lost.**

2. Extension Projects

This funding category enhances outreach efforts that support the wide-scale implementation of IPM methods and maximize opportunities to build strategic alliances with stakeholders to expand their active participation in increasing the adoption of IPM methods. Projects may be proposed to develop educational materials and information delivery systems needed for outreach efforts, conduct field-scale or on-farm demonstrations, or deliver IPM education and training. A research component is not a required element of extension projects, but the existence of a research base should be documented. Funding is not intended to support ongoing extension programmatic efforts.

Extension applications from single or multiple institutions in only one state/territory may be submitted with a maximum total project budget of \$60,000; applications from more than one state/territory in the Western Region may be submitted with a maximum total project budget of \$80,000; and applications from more than one Western Region state/territory that are involved with an institution outside the Western Region may be submitted with a maximum total project budget of \$80,000. Extension project applications may be submitted for project periods of up to 3 years.

3. Joint Research-Extension Projects

This funding category combines research and extension activities (as described in sections C.1. and C.2., above). Joint Research-Extension projects validate pest management systems, introduce new pest management tactics into local production, urban or natural systems, and deliver these systems to producers or managers and their advisers through IPM education and training programs.

Joint Research-Extension applications from single or multiple institutions in only one state/territory in the Western Region may be submitted with a maximum total project budget of \$100,000; applications from more than one state/territory in the Western Region may be submitted with a maximum total project budget of \$180,000; and applications from more than one Western Region state/territory that are involved with an institution outside the Western Region may be submitted with a maximum total project budget of \$180,000. **Joint - Extension project applications may be submitted for project periods of up to 3 years. Please note that one- or two-year Joint Research-Extension projects may be eligible for no-cost extensions**

after years one and two, but that no carryover or extension is permitted for these projects beyond three years.

PART II—AWARD INFORMATION

A. Available Funding

There is no commitment by USDA to fund any particular application or to make a specific number of awards. In FY 2009, approximately \$650,000 is expected to be available to fund applications to the Regional IPM Competitive Grants Program – Western Region (W-RIPM). Project duration and size of award depend on the project type and the degree of collaboration among states/territories in the Western Region (see Part I, C., Program Area Description, for more information).

B. Types of Applications

Awards will be made as standard grants which are instruments by which CSREES agrees to support a specified level of effort for a predetermined project period without any statement of intention to provide additional support at a future date. In FY 2009, applications may be submitted to the W-RIPM Program as one of the following types of requests:

(1) New application. This is a project application that has not been previously submitted to the W-RIPM Program. All new applications will be reviewed competitively using the selection process and evaluation criteria described in Part V—Application Review Requirements.

(2) Renewal application. This is a project application that requests additional funding for a project beyond the period that was approved in an original or amended award. Applications for renewed funding must contain the same information as required for new applications, and additionally must contain a Progress Report (report must be added to the Project Narrative, Part IV.B.2.b.(iv)). Renewal applications must be received by the relevant due dates, will be evaluated in competition with other pending applications in appropriate area to which they are assigned, and will be reviewed according to the same evaluation criteria as new applications.

PART III—ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Applicants

Organizations eligible to receive Research awards are: state agricultural experiment stations, 1862 and 1890 land-grant colleges and universities, including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University, 1994 land-grant colleges and universities, research foundations established by land-grant colleges and universities, colleges and universities receiving funds under the Act of October 10, 1962 (16 USC 582a *et seq.*), accredited schools or colleges of veterinary medicine, and the University of the District of Columbia.

Organizations eligible to receive Extension awards are 1862 and 1890 land-grant colleges and universities, including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University, and the University of the District of Columbia.

Research and Extension personnel from other USDA/IPM regions can participate as members of project teams. **Applications will only be accepted from Project Directors (PDs) in the Western IPM Region.**

Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations are necessary for the conduct of the project. An applicant's failure to meet an eligibility criterion by the time of an application deadline will result in CSREES returning the application without review or, even though an application may be reviewed, will preclude CSREES from making an award.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

There are no matching requirements associated with the RIPM program and matching resources will not be factored into the review process as evaluation criteria.

PART IV—APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. Electronic Application Package

Only electronic applications may be submitted via Grants.gov to CSREES in response to this RFA.

Prior to preparing an application, it is suggested that the PD/PI first contact an Authorized Representative (AR)(also referred to as Authorized Organizational Representative or AOR) to determine if the organization is prepared to submit electronic applications through Grant.gov. If the organization is not prepared, the AR should see http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp for steps for preparing to submit applications through Grants.gov.

The steps to access application materials are as follows:

1. Download and install PureEdge Viewer, a small, free program that provides access to the grant application. See http://www.grants.gov/resources/download_software.jsp#pureedge.
2. The application package must be obtained via Grants.gov, go to <http://www.grants.gov>, click on “Apply for Grants” in the left-hand column, click on “**Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package and Instructions**,” enter the funding opportunity number **USDA-CSREES-RIPM-001829** in the appropriate box and click “Download Package.” From the search results, click “Download” to access the application package.

Contained within the application package is the “[CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide: A Guide for Preparation and Submission of CSREES Applications via Grants.gov](#).” This Guide contains an introduction and general Grants.gov instructions, information about how to use a Grant Application Package in Grants.gov, and instructions on how to complete the application forms.

If assistance is needed to access the application package (e.g., downloading or navigating PureEdge forms, using PureEdge with a Macintosh computer), refer to resources available on the Grants.gov Web site first (<http://grants.gov/>). Grants.gov assistance is also available as follows:

- Grants.gov customer support
Toll Free: 1-800-518-4726
Business Hours: Monday through Friday 7:00 am – 9:00 pm Eastern Standard Time
Email: support@grants.gov

See <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/electronic.html> for additional resources for applying electronically.

B. Content and Form of Application Submission

Electronic applications should be prepared following Part V and VI of the document entitled “[A Guide for Preparation and Submission of CSREES Applications via Grants.gov.](#)” This guide is part of the corresponding application package (see Section A. of this Part). The following is **additional information** needed in order to prepare an application in response to this RFA. If there is discrepancy between the two documents, the information contained in this RFA is overriding.

Note the attachment requirements (e.g., portable document format) in Part III section 3. of the Guide. ANY PROPOSALS CONTAINING NON-PDF DOCUMENTS WILL BE AT RISK OF BEING EXCLUDED FROM CSREES REVIEW. Partial applications will be excluded from CSREES review. With documented prior approval, resubmitted applications will be accepted until close of business on the closing date in the RFA.

If you do not own PDF-generating software, Grants.gov provides online tools to assist applicants. Users will find a link to “Convert Documents to PDF” on <http://grants.gov/assets/PDFConversion.pdf>.

1. SF 424 R&R Cover Sheet

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 2. of the CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide.

2. R&R Other Project Information Form

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 3. of the CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide.

a. Field 6. Project Summary/Abstract.

(i) Project Type (choose one): Research; Extension; Joint Research-Extension.

(ii) Summary Statement. The first line of your summary should state the type of project you are submitting, for example, “This is a Research project” or “This is an Extension project.” For Joint Research-Extension projects, the summary statement must indicate how many dollars are being requested from each respective source (Smith-Lever funds are for extension activities, the Act of August 4, 1965 (P.L. 89-106) funds are for research activities). The summary should be a self-contained, specific description of the activity to be undertaken and should focus on: overall project goal(s) and supporting objectives; plans to accomplish project goal(s); and relevance of the project to the purposes and priorities of the W-RIPM program (see Part I.B.).

b. Field 7. Project Narrative.

PLEASE NOTE: The Project Narrative shall not exceed **21** pages of written text double spaced and up to 5 additional pages for figures and tables. This maximum 26 pages has been established

to ensure fair and equitable competition. **Any proposals exceeding the page limit will not be reviewed.**

The Project Narrative must include all of the following:

Subsections (i) through (iv) of the Project Narrative should not exceed fifteen (15) double-spaced pages in total. Subsection (v), 'Implementation and Evaluation Plans' shall not exceed three (3) pages of written text in total. For renewal and resubmitted renewal applications, requirements in subsection (vi) 'Progress Reports', shall not exceed three (3) pages of written text in total. The Project Narrative must include all of the following:

(i) Problem, Background and Justification

Describe why current technologies and practices are inadequate and how the proposed approach will help to improve or implement the pest management system and address the specific need(s) identified by growers and other stakeholders in the Western Region. Address the specific needs identified in this solicitation and identify the relative importance of the strategy(ies) to an improved pest management system in the region/area, and the potential applicability of the proposed approach to other production regions. Cite documentation in the Relevance Statement that describes the relevance of the project to W-RIPM priorities (see Part I.B.). Review ongoing or completed work (local/ regional/ national) that is relevant and include references. Describe how previous work funded by the W-RIPM program or other sources will contribute to the proposed project.

(ii) Objectives

Provide clear, concise, complete, and logically arranged statement(s) of the specific aims of or hypotheses addressed by the proposed effort. In Joint Research-Extension applications, the research and extension objectives should be delineated separately.

(iii) Methods, Procedures and Timetable

Describe how each of the stated objectives will be addressed. Include appropriate experimental design and experimental units, reference methods to be used, and describe appropriate statistical analyses. Include a timetable for the start and completion of each phase of the project. For a Joint Research-Extension application, describe how the project will be managed, particularly how coordination between research and extension components will be achieved and maintained and the roles of research and extension collaborators.

(iv) Cooperation and Institutional Units Involved

When appropriate, the project should be coordinated with the efforts of other states/territories and/or national programs. Identify each institutional unit contributing to the project. Identify each state/territory in a multiple-state/territory application and designate the lead state. The degree of collaboration should be specifically addressed where the project involves multi-state/territory collaboration, and/or is submitted as multi-disciplinary or multi-organizational. Clearly describe the roles of all collaborating participants in the project.

(v) Implementation and Evaluation Plans

The Implementation and Evaluation Plans portion of the application should not exceed three (3) pages in length.

(1) Research Projects: Applications must describe how the tactic or system, once developed, might be incorporated into an existing crop management program or other pest management situation on a large scale.

(2) Extension Projects and Joint Research-Extension Projects: Applications must provide detailed plans for evaluation of the project. The evaluation plan should include specific evaluation objectives and measurement indicators (e.g., adoption rate, number of acres impacted, pesticide use, risk reduction, profitability) that will be used to measure impacts and outcomes resulting from the project. Evaluation plans that include surveys should indicate survey expertise of investigators and/or describe the survey methodology that will be used.

(vi) Progress Reports –For renewal applications (as defined in Part II.B.), a progress report must be included within the page limitation set for the Project Narrative portion of the application.

c. Relevance Statement (Field 11 on form)

A Relevance Statement must be included that describes the relevance of the project to W-RIPM priorities (see Part I, B.). The Relevance Statement must be no longer than three (3) double spaced pages. The Relevance Statement and the Project Summary are the only parts of the submission that will be viewed by the Relevance (Merit) Review Panel. Conversely, the Relevance Statement is the only part of the submission that the Technical Review Panel will not view. Applications submitted without a separate Relevance Statement will not be reviewed.

The Relevance Statement must be submitted with the full application but as a separately attached PDF file under Field number 11. Name the file “RELEVANCE [PDs last name].pdf”. Formatting requirements (font, spacing, margins) for the Relevance Statement are the same as those for the application. The Relevance Statement should contain the following information:

- (1) Names and institutions of PDs and major cooperators;
- (2) Project title;
- (3) Project summary (see Part IV,B.2.a.);
- (4) Project objectives; and
- (5) Description of the problem, background and justification, particularly addressing potential for the project to address the Western Region’s priorities; outreach; appropriate multi-state/territory involvement within the Western Region; level of non-pesticidal focus; and level of stakeholder identification as a priority.

3. R&R Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 4. of the CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide.

4. R&R Personal Data – As noted in Part V, 5. of the CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide, the submission of this information is voluntary and is not a precondition of award. If completing the information, **do not enter any data in the field requesting the social security number.**

5. R&R Budget

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 6. of the CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide. Note: Joint Research-Extension projects must show the proposed breakdown of amounts requested from the Act of August 4, 1965 (P.L. 89-106) Research funds and Smith-Lever Extension funds for each year of funding being requested.

Include cumulative project costs over all years, by cost category and funding source (Research and/or Extension) in the budget justification (Field K on the form).

6. Supplemental Information Form

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part VI, 1. of the CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide.

a. Field 2. Program Code. Enter the program code name “**Western RIPM**” and the program code “**QQ.W**”.

b. Field 8. Conflict of Interest List. A conflict of interest list is required under this program

C. Submission Dates and Times

Instructions for submitting an application are included in Part IV, Section 1.9 of the CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide.

Applications must be received by Grants.gov by COB on **November 17, 2008** (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time). Applications received after this deadline will normally not be considered for funding.

Correspondence regarding submitted applications will be sent using e-mail. Therefore, applicants are strongly encouraged to provide accurate e-mail addresses, where designated, on the SF-424 R&R Application for Federal Assistance.

If the AR has not received correspondence **from CSREES** regarding a submitted application within 30 days of submission of the application, please contact the Program Contact identified in Part VII of the applicable RFA and request the proposal number assigned to the application.

Failure to do so may result in (for competitive programs) the application not being considered for funding by the peer review panel. Once the application has been assigned a proposal number, this number should be cited on all future correspondence.

D. Funding Restrictions

CSREES has determined that grant funds awarded under this authority may not be used for the renovation or refurbishment of research, education, or extension space; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such space; or the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of buildings or facilities.

Pursuant to Section 1473 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1997 (91 Stat. 981), indirect costs and tuition remission are unallowable costs under Section 2(c)(1)(B) projects and Section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act, and no funds will be approved for this purpose. Costs that are a part of the institution's indirect cost pool may not be reclassified as direct costs for the purpose of making them allowable.

E. Other Submission Requirements

The applicant should follow the submission requirements noted in the document entitled "A Guide for Preparation and Submission of CSREES Applications via Grants.gov."

PART V—APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

A. General

Subsection (c)(5) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(c)), as amended by Section 212 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998, (7 U.S.C. 450i(c)(5)) requires grantees to arrange for scientific peer review of their proposed research activities and merit review of their proposed extension and education activities in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary prior to the Secretary making a grant award under this authority. **The application review process conducted by the W-RIPM Program fulfills the scientific peer review and merit review requirements.**

Each application will be evaluated in a three-part process. First, each application will be screened by CSREES to ensure that it meets the administrative requirements as set forth in this RFA. Applications that meet these requirements will be evaluated at the regional level by two panels, one for relevance and one for technical merit.

1. Relevance Review

The Relevance Review is conducted by a panel of eight to ten stakeholder representatives. Panelists are usually growers, consultants, environmental advocates, consumer advocates, government employees with appropriate expertise, IPM administrators, researchers, and extension educators. The Relevance Panel does not see the entire proposal; panelists read only the Relevance Statement and the Project Summary. Be sure to clearly label the file **"RELEVANCE [PDs last name].PDF"** and submit with the proposal as a separate PDF attachment (see Part IV, B.2.c).

2. Technical Review

A multidisciplinary technical panel with members selected from outside the Western Region will review, evaluate, score, and rank all the applications for technical merit. (They do not see the Relevance Statement.) Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors: (a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities; (b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields; (c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs; (d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations); (e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and (f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

Please Note: Successful applications must be strong in both areas. To be funded, an application must meet minimum standards set by both panels. The W-RIPM Panel Manager and the director of the Western IPM Center will use this information to recommend project funding, including level and duration, to CSREES. Sections B.1. and B.2., below, delineate the review criteria.

B. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria below will be used in reviewing applications submitted in response to this RFA:

1. The criteria used for the Relevance Review to evaluate Research, Extension, and Joint Research-Extension projects, including Multi-state/Territory and Multi-region Projects are:

Criteria	Possible Points
<p>a. <u>Potential for the project to address the Western Region's priorities</u> (see Part I, B. for more detail).</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Maximum Score</u></p> <p>Environmental stewardship and risk management 10</p> <p>Potential for implementation and measurable impact 10</p> <p>Importance and value of the crop system or non-agricultural site(s) to the Region 10</p> <p>Importance of the pest to the crop system, or non-agricultural situation 10</p> <p>Interdisciplinary collaborations 10</p> <p>Dissemination 10</p>	60
<p>Explicit link to stakeholder-identified need.</p> <p>b. <u>Level of stakeholder identification as a priority</u> <u>Maximum Score</u></p> <p>No mention of stakeholders in setting the priority 0</p> <p>Mention of stakeholders but no documentation 5</p> <p>Clearly documented as priority of an important stakeholder group 10</p> <p>Clearly documented as an important priority by multiple stakeholder groups 15</p>	15
<p>Focus of the project on development, promotion, or implementation of non-pesticidal tactics.</p> <p>c. <u>Level of non-pesticidal focus</u> <u>Maximum Score</u></p> <p>Will not impact risk in any way 0</p> <p>Has pesticide management focus and could significantly reduce or improve risk 8</p> <p>Focused on non-pesticidal tactics and could significantly reduce or improve risk 15</p>	15
<p>d. <u>Appropriate multi-state/territory involvement within the Western Region.</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Maximum Score</u></p> <p>Only 1 state/territory involved and 1 would benefit 0</p> <p>Only 1 state/territory involved, but clear case presented that several states would benefit 5</p> <p>Only 1 state/territory involved, but clear case presented that the crop or non-agricultural problem is unique and critical to the state/territory and will provide a model for systems elsewhere 5</p> <p>More than 1 state/territory involved and several would benefit 10</p>	10
Total possible points for Relevance Review:	100

2. Technical Review

The criteria used for Technical Review to evaluate Research, Extension, and Joint Research-Extension projects, including Multi-state/Territory and Multi-region Projects (as described in Part II, C. 1-3) are:

Criteria	Possible Points
<p>Appropriate objectives, design, and methodology.</p> <p>Considerations include:</p> <p>Overall scientific value</p> <p>Will the planned research make a significant contribution to new knowledge or provide a better understanding of existing knowledge?</p> <p>Is the problem clearly presented and literature review adequate?</p> <p>Do the objectives address the problem presented?</p> <p>What is the probability of success?</p> <p>Does the project, as proposed, duplicate on-going projects at other institutions?</p>	30
<p>Are the methods appropriate and sufficient to accomplish the stated objectives?</p> <p>Can the objectives be accomplished in the stated time frame?</p>	20
<p>Degree of interdisciplinary collaboration, including collaboration among research, extension, private consultants, industry, and the user community. The feasibility of increasing IPM implementation as a result of the project.</p>	20
<p>Evaluation and Implementation Plans</p> <p><u>Research Applications:</u></p> <p>Implementation plan: Description for method of technology transfer from research project to field applications.</p> <p>--or--</p> <p><u>Extension and Joint Research-Extension Applications:</u></p> <p>Implementation plan: Description for method of technology transfer from research project to field applications.</p> <p>Evaluation plan: Description of an appropriate strategy/process to evaluate the success of the project.</p>	10
<p>Professional competence of the project team</p>	10
<p>Appropriate budget</p>	10
<p>Total possible points for Technical Review:</p>	100

C. Conflicts of Interest and Confidentiality

During the peer evaluation process, extreme care will be taken to prevent any actual or perceived conflicts of interest that may impact review or evaluation. For the purpose of determining conflicts of interest, the academic and administrative autonomy of an institution shall be determined by reference to the current Higher Education Directory, published by Higher Education Publications, Inc., 6400 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 648, Falls Church, Virginia 22042. Phone: (703) 532-2300. Web site: <http://www.hepinc.com>.

Names of submitting institutions and individuals, as well as application content and peer evaluations, will be kept confidential, except to those involved in the review process, to the extent permitted by law. In addition, the identities of peer reviewers will remain confidential throughout the entire review process. Therefore, the names of the reviewers will not be released to applicants.

D. Organizational Management Information

Specific management information relating to an applicant shall be submitted on a one time basis, with updates on an as needed basis, as part of the responsibility determination prior to the award of a grant identified under this RFA, if such information has not been provided previously under this or another CSREES program. CSREES will provide copies of forms recommended for use in fulfilling these requirements as part of the preaward process. Although an applicant may be eligible based on its status as one of these entities, there are factors which may exclude an applicant from receiving Federal financial and nonfinancial assistance and benefits under this program (e.g., debarment or suspension of an individual involved or a determination that an applicant is not responsible based on submitted organizational management information).

PART VI—AWARD ADMINISTRATION

A. General

Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the awarding official of CSREES shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in this RFA. The date specified by the awarding official of CSREES as the effective date of the grant shall be no later than September 30 of the Federal fiscal year in which the project is approved for support and funds are appropriated for such purpose, unless otherwise permitted by law. It should be noted that the project need not be initiated on the grant effective date, but as soon thereafter as practical so that project goals may be attained within the funded project period. All funds granted by CSREES under this RFA shall be expended solely for the purpose for which the funds are granted in accordance with the approved application and budget, the regulations, the terms and conditions of the award, the applicable Federal cost principles, and the Department's assistance regulations (parts 3015 and 3019 of 7 CFR).

B. Award Notice

The award document will provide pertinent instructions and information including, at a minimum, the following:

- (1) Legal name and address of performing organization or institution to whom the Administrator has issued an award under the terms of this request for applications;
- (2) Title of project;
- (3) Name(s) and institution(s) of PDs chosen to direct and control approved activities;
- (4) Identifying award number assigned by the Department;
- (5) Project period, specifying the amount of time the Department intends to support the project without requiring recompetition for funds;
- (6) Total amount of Departmental financial assistance approved by the Administrator during the project period;
- (7) Legal authority(ies) under which the award is issued;
- (8) Appropriate Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number;
- (9) Applicable award terms and conditions (see <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/business/awards/awardterms.html> to view CSREES award terms and conditions);
- (10) Approved budget plan for categorizing allocable project funds to accomplish the stated purpose of the award; and

(11) Other information or provisions deemed necessary by CSREES to carry out its respective awarding activities or to accomplish the purpose of a particular award.

C. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Several Federal statutes and regulations apply to grant applications considered for review and to project grants awarded under this program. These include, but are not limited to:

2 CFR Part 215—USDA implementation of OMB Circular A-110, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Other Agreements With Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Nonprofit Organizations.

7 CFR Part 1, subpart A—USDA implementation of the Freedom of Information Act.

7 CFR Part 3—USDA implementation of OMB Circular No. A-129 regarding debt collection.

7 CFR Part 15, subpart A—USDA implementation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended.

7 CFR Part 331 and 9 CFR Part 121—USDA implementation of the Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002.

7 CFR Part 3015—USDA Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations, implementing OMB directives (i.e., OMB Circular Nos. A-21 and A-122, now codified at 2 CFR Parts 220 and 230) and incorporating provisions of 31 U.S.C. 6301-6308 (formerly the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977, Pub. L. No. 95-224), as well as general policy requirements applicable to recipients of Departmental financial assistance.

7 CFR Part 3017—USDA implementation of Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) and 7 CFR Part 3021—Governmentwide Requirements for Drug Free Workplace (Grants).

7 CFR Part 3018—USDA implementation of Restrictions on Lobbying. Imposes prohibitions and requirements for disclosure and certification related to lobbying on recipients of Federal contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and loans.

7 CFR Part 3052—USDA implementation of OMB Circular No. A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non profit Organizations.

7 CFR Part 3407—CSREES procedures to implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

7 CFR Part 3430 – CSREES Competitive and Noncompetitive Nonformula Grant Programs—General Grant Administrative Provisions

29 U.S.C. 794 (section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973) and 7 CFR Part 15b (USDA implementation of statute) —prohibiting discrimination based upon physical or mental handicap in Federally assisted programs.

35 U.S.C. 200 et seq. —Bayh Dole Act, controlling allocation of rights to inventions made by employees of small business firms and domestic nonprofit organizations, including universities, in Federally assisted programs (implementing regulations are contained in 37 CFR Part 401).

D. Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements

Grantees are required to submit initial project information and annual and summary reports to CSREES' Current Research Information System (CRIS). The CRIS database contains narrative project information, progress/impact statements, and final technical reports that are made available to the public. For applications recommended for funding, instructions on preparation and submission of project documentation will be provided to the applicant by the agency contact. Documentation must be submitted to CRIS before CSREES funds will be released. Project reports will be requested by the CRIS office when required. For more information about CRIS, visit <http://cris.csrees.usda.gov>.

PART VII—AGENCY CONTACT

Applicants and other interested parties are encouraged to contact:

Dr. Frank G. Zalom
Grants Panel Manager, W-RIPM
Department of Entomology
University of California
374 Briggs Hall
Davis, CA 95616
Telephone: (530) 752-3687
Fax: (530) 752-1537
E-mail: fgzalom@ucdavis.edu

PART VIII—OTHER INFORMATION

A. Access to Review Information

Copies of reviews, not including the identity of reviewers, and a summary of the panel comments will be sent to the applicant PD after the review process has been completed.

B. Use of Funds; Changes

1. Delegation of Fiscal Responsibility

Unless the terms and conditions of the award state otherwise, the awardee may not in whole or in part delegate or transfer to another person, institution, or organization the responsibility for use or expenditure of award funds.

2. Changes in Project Plans

a. The permissible changes by the awardee, PD(s), or other key project personnel in the approved project shall be limited to changes in methodology, techniques, or other similar aspects of the project to expedite achievement of the project's approved goals. If the awardee or the PD(s) is uncertain as to whether a change complies with this provision, the question must be referred to the Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) for a final determination. The ADO is the signatory of the award document, not the program contact.

b. Changes in approved goals or objectives shall be requested by the awardee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to effecting such changes. In no event shall requests for such changes be approved which are outside the scope of the original approved project.

c. Changes in approved project leadership or the replacement or reassignment of other key project personnel shall be requested by the awardee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to effecting such changes.

d. Transfers of actual performance of the substantive programmatic work in whole or in part and provisions for payment of funds, whether or not Federal funds are involved, shall be requested by the awardee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to effecting such transfers, unless prescribed otherwise in the terms and conditions of the award.

e. The project period may be extended by CSREES without additional financial support, for such additional period(s) as the ADO determines may be necessary to complete or fulfill the purposes of an approved project, but in no case shall the total project period exceed five years. Any extension of time shall be conditioned upon prior request by the awardee and approval in writing by the ADO, unless prescribed otherwise in the terms and conditions of award.

f. Changes in Approved Budget: Unless stated otherwise in the terms and conditions of award, changes in an approved budget must be requested by the awardee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to instituting such changes if the revision will involve transfers or expenditures of

amounts requiring prior approval as set forth in the applicable Federal cost principles, Departmental regulations, or award.

C. Confidential Aspects of Applications and Awards

When an application results in an award, it becomes a part of the record of CSREES transactions, available to the public upon specific request. Information that the Secretary determines to be of a confidential, privileged, or proprietary nature will be held in confidence to the extent permitted by law. Therefore, any information that the applicant wishes to have considered as confidential, privileged, or proprietary should be clearly marked within the application. The original copy of an application that does not result in an award will be retained by the Agency for a period of three years. Other copies will be destroyed. Such an application will be released only with the consent of the applicant or to the extent required by law. An application may be withdrawn at any time prior to the final action thereon.

D. Regulatory Information

For the reasons set forth in the final Rule related Notice to 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V (48 FR 29114, June 24, 1983), this program is excluded from the scope of the Executive Order 12372 which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), the collection of information requirements contained in this Notice have been approved under OMB Document No. 0524-0039.

E. Definitions

For the purpose of this program, the following definitions are applicable:

1862 Land-Grant Institution means an institution eligible to receive funds under the Act of July 2, 1862, as amended (7 U.S.C. 301 *et seq.*). Unless otherwise stated for a specific program, this term includes a research foundation maintained by such an institution.

1890 Land-Grant Institution means one of those institutions eligible to receive funds under the Act of August 30, 1890, as amended (7 U.S.C. 321 *et seq.*), including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University. Unless otherwise stated for a specific program, this term includes a research foundation maintained by such an institution.

1994 Land-Grant Institution means one of those institutions as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994, as amended (7 U.S.C. 301 note). These institutions are commonly referred to as Tribal Colleges or Universities.

Administrator means the Administrator of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) and any other officer or employee of the CSREES to whom the authority involved is delegated.

Advisory Board means the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.

Agricultural research means research in the food and agricultural sciences.

Applied research means research that includes expansion of the findings of fundamental research to uncover practical ways in which new knowledge can be advanced to benefit individuals and society.

Authorized Departmental Officer or ADO means the Secretary or any employee of the Department with delegated authority to issue or modify grant instruments on behalf of the Secretary.

Authorized Representative or AR means the President or Chief Executive Officer of the applicant organization or the official, designated by the President or Chief Executive Officer of the applicant organization, who has the authority to commit the resources of the organization to the project.

Budget period means the interval of time (usually 12 months) into which the project period is divided for budgetary and reporting purposes.

Cash contributions means the recipient's cash outlay, including the outlay of money contributed to the recipient by non-Federal third parties.

Citizen or national of the United States means a citizen or native resident of a State; or, a person defined in the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(22), who, though not a citizen of the United States, owes permanent allegiance to the United States. When eligibility is claimed solely on the basis of permanent allegiance, documentary evidence from the Immigration and Naturalization Service as to such eligibility must be made available to CSREES upon request. College or university means, unless defined in a separate subpart, an educational institution in any State which:

- (1) Admits as regular students only persons having a certificate of graduation from a school providing secondary education, or the recognized equivalent of such a certificate;
- (2) Is legally authorized within such State to provide a program of education beyond secondary education;
- (3) Provides an educational program for which a bachelor's degree or any other higher degree is awarded;
- (4) Is a public or other nonprofit institution; and
- (5) Is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association. Unless otherwise stated for a specific program, this term includes a research foundation maintained by such an institution.

Department means the United States Department of Agriculture.

Education activity or teaching activity means formal classroom instruction, laboratory instruction, and practicum experience in the food and agricultural sciences and other related matters such as faculty development, student recruitment and services, curriculum development, instructional materials and equipment, and innovative teaching methodologies.

Established and demonstrated capacity means that an organization has met the following criteria:

- (1) Conducts any systematic study directed toward new or fuller knowledge and understanding of the subject studied; or,
- (2) Systematically relates or applies the findings of research or scientific experimentation to the application of new approaches to problem solving, technologies, or management practices; and
- (3) Has facilities, qualified personnel, independent funding, and prior projects and accomplishments in research or technology transfer.

Extension means informal education program conducted in the States in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture.

Extension activity means an act or process that delivers science-based knowledge and informal educational programs to people, enabling them to make practical decisions.

Food and agricultural sciences The term “food and agricultural sciences” means basic, applied, and developmental research, extension, and teaching activities in food and fiber, agricultural, renewable natural resources, forestry, and physical and social sciences, including activities relating to the following:

- (1) Animal health, production, and well-being.
- (2) Plant health and production.
- (3) Animal and plant germ plasm collection and preservation.
- (4) Aquaculture.
- (5) Food safety.
- (6) Soil and water conservation and improvement.
- (7) Forestry, horticulture, and range management.
- (8) Nutritional sciences and promotion.
- (9) Farm enhancement, including financial management, input efficiency, and profitability.
- (10) Home economics.
- (11) Rural human ecology.
- (12) Youth development and agricultural education, including 4-H clubs.
- (13) Expansion of domestic and international markets for agricultural commodities and products, including agricultural trade barrier identification and analysis.
- (14) Information management and technology transfer related to agriculture.
- (15) Biotechnology related to agriculture.
- (16) The processing, distributing, marketing, and utilization of food and agricultural products.

Fundamental research means research that increases knowledge or understanding of the fundamental aspects of phenomena and has the potential for broad application, and has an effect on agriculture, food, nutrition, or the environment.

Graduate degree means a Master’s or doctoral degree.

Grant means the award by the Authorized Departmental Officer of funds to an eligible grantee to assist in meeting the costs of conducting for the benefit of the public, an identified project which is intended and designed to accomplish the purpose of the program as identified in the program solicitation or RFA.

Grantee means the organization designated in the grant award document as the responsible legal entity to which a grant is awarded.

Insular area means the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the Virgin Islands of the United States.

Integrated means to incorporate two or three components of the agricultural knowledge system (research, education, and extension) around a problem area or activity.

Land-Grant Institutions means the 1862 Land-Grant Institutions, 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, and 1994 Land- Grant Institutions.

Matching or cost sharing means that portion of allowable project or program costs not borne by the Federal Government, including the value of in-kind contributions.

Merit review means an evaluation of a proposed project or elements of a proposed program whereby the technical quality and relevance to regional or national goals are assessed.

Merit reviewers means peers and other individuals with expertise appropriate to conduct merit review of a proposed project.

Methodology means the project approach to be followed.

Mission-linked research means research on specifically identified agricultural problems which, through a continuum of efforts, provides information and technology that may be transferred to users and may relate to a product, practice, or process.

National laboratories include Federal laboratories that are government-owned contractor-operated or government / owned government-operated.

Peer reviewers means experts or consultants qualified by training and experience to give expert advice on the scientific and technical merit of grant applications or the relevance of those applications to one or more of the application evaluation criteria. Peer reviewers may be ad hoc or convened as a panel.

Prior approval means written approval by an Authorized Departmental Officer evidencing prior consent.

Private research organization means any non-governmental corporation, partnership, proprietorship, trust, or other organization.

Private sector means all non-public entities, including for-profit and nonprofit commercial and noncommercial entities, and including private or independent educational associations.

Program Officer means a CSREES individual who is responsible for the technical oversight of the award on behalf of USDA.

Project means the particular activity within the scope of the program supported by a grant award.

Project Director or PD means the single individual designated by the grantee in the grant application and approved by the Authorized Departmental Officer who is responsible for the direction and management of the project, also known as a Principal Investigator (PI) for research activities.

Project period means the total length of time, as stated in the award document and modifications thereto, if any, during which Federal sponsorship begins and ends.

Research means any systematic study directed toward new or fuller knowledge and understanding of the subject studied.

Scientific peer review is an evaluation of the technical quality of a proposed project and its relevance to regional or national goals, performed by experts with the scientific knowledge and technical skills to conduct the proposed research work.

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture and any other officer or employee of the Department to whom the authority involved is delegated.

State means any one of the fifty States, the District of Columbia, and the insular areas.

Third party in-kind contributions means the value of non-cash contributions of property or services provided by non-Federal third parties, including real property, equipment, supplies and other expendable property, directly benefiting and specifically identifiable to a funded project or program.

United States means the several States, the District of Columbia, and the insular areas.

Units of State government means all State institutions, including the formal divisions of State government (i.e., the official state agencies such as departments of transportation and education), local government agencies (e.g., a county human services office), and including state educational institutions (e.g., public colleges and universities).

CHECKLIST

(Disclaimer Note: This checklist is included for the sole purpose of assisting the applicant in the self review process prior to submission. Applicant should use the RFA as the instrument of instruction and the Application Guide to complete the application process. This checklist is NOT an official portion of the RFA and should in no way be considered a replacement for the Application Guide or instructions contained within the RFA.)

Only electronic applications may be submitted to CSREES via Grants.gov in response to this RFA. All applications submitted under the Regional IPM Competitive Grants Program (RIPM) must contain the applicable elements outlined in these guidelines. The following checklist has been prepared to assist in ensuring that the application is complete prior to submission:

- ◆ Have all attachments been submitted in the portable document format (PDF)? CSREES will return proposals w/non-PDF attachments unread. See Part III of the CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide.
- ◆ Do all submitted PDF documents have one-inch margins and are typed or word processed using no type smaller than 12 point regardless of line spacing? Are all PDF documents numbered sequentially on each page of the attachment? Are all page limitations for a given attachment followed? Submitted proposals that do not meet these requirements for PDF attachments will be returned without review.
- ◆ Have all six components of the Application Package been completed? Did you use the “Check Package for Errors” feature of the PureEdge viewer (see section 1.8 of the CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide)?
 - ☐ R&R Cover Sheet
 - ☐ R&R Other Project Information
 - ☐ R&R Senior/Key Person Profile
 - ☐ R&R Personal Data
 - ☐ R&R Budget
 - ☐ Supplemental Information Form
- ◆ **R&R Cover Sheet**
 - Have all required fields been completed?
- ◆ **R&R Other Project Information**
 - Have the fields describing project potential or actual environmental impact been properly completed? Refer to CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide for instructions.
 - Project Summary/Abstract
Has the Project Summary PDF been attached to this form in Field 6?
Are the names and affiliated organizations of all Project Directors listed at the top of the page in addition to the title of the project?
Has a RIPM goal been identified in the Project Summary?
Does the Project Summary include research, and/or extension objectives, as appropriate?
Note: a project summary/abstract summary template is available at the following CSREES website: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/electronic.html>, but will need to be converted to a PDF file before attaching to application.

- Project Narrative
Has the Project Narrative PDF been attached to this form in Field 7?
Is the project fully described?
Does this section adhere to the format and page limitations?
- Bibliography & References Cited
Has the Bibliography & References Cited PDF been attached to this form in Field 8?
Are all references cited and are all citations referenced?
Do all citations contain a title, the names of all authors, and are they in accepted journal format?
- Facilities & Other Resources
Has the Facilities & Other Resources PDF been attached to this form in Field 9?
Has a description of your facilities, sufficient to indicate that you will be able to carry out this project, been given?
- Equipment
Has the Equipment PDF been attached to this form in Field 10?
Is the description of your equipment sufficient to indicate that you will be able to carry out this project?
- Relevance Statement
Has the Relevance PDF been attached to this form last in Field 11? Maximum length: 3 pages. Name the file “RELEVANCE [PDs last name].pdf”.
- Appendices to Project Description
Has the Appendices to Project Description PDF been attached to this form in Field 11?
Are the reprints/preprints limited to 2 (as described in the instructions)?
- Collaborative Arrangements
Has the Collaborative Arrangements PDF been attached to this form in Field 11?

◆ R&R Senior/Key Person Profile

- Biographical Sketch
Has the biographical sketch (vitae) PDF for the PD and each co-PD, senior associate, and other professional personnel been attached?
- Current and Pending Support
Has the current and pending support PDF for PD and co-PD(s) been attached?
Have all current and pending projects been listed and summarized, **including this proposal**?
Note: a current and pending support template is available at the following CSREES website: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/electronic.html>, but will need to be converted to a PDF file before attaching to application.

◆ R&R Personal Data (Voluntary)

- Have all fields been completed?

◆ R&R Budget

- Have all fields been completed for each PD and co-PD(s)?
- Are annual and summary budgets included?
- Budget Justification
Has the Budget Justification PDF been attached to this form in Field K?

Are budget items individually justified and in the same order as they appear on the budget forms?

For multi-institutional applications, has a budget justification been included for each institution involved?

◆ **Supplemental Information Form**

- Has Field 1 been pre-populated with the “Regional Integrated Pest Management Competitive Grants Program – Western Region” under Funding Opportunity Name and USDA-CSREES Funding Opportunity Number?
- Does Field 2 indicate the correct Program Code Name (Western RIPM) and Program Code (QQ.W) to which you are applying?
- Conflict of Interest List

Has the Conflict of Interest List for all individuals who have submitted a Biographical Sketch been attached to this form in one PDF file in Field 8? Note: a conflict of interest list template is available at the following CSREES website:

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/electronic.html>.